

## **BEING A MAN OF THE FLOOD, PART 1**

*Scriptures from the Life of Noah by Pastor Justin Schefcik*

When I studied at Frontier School of the Bible, one of my assignments in the preaching class was to do a biographical sermon. A biographical sermon is simply a sermon about an individual and I chose to write on Noah. I enjoyed the study of Noah so much and have constantly found myself rehashing the practical principles in my mind so much that I expanded on that sermon since and it is now several sermons. The biographical sermon has become one of my favorites because when you study of the life of a person from Scripture, studying how they lived and how they walked with God and how God worked in their lives and responded to the things they did in life, it takes the application of the text to a new level. As Christians, we are to order our lives according to God's Word and by studying someone's life in the Bible and their walk with God we learn to relate to God in our own lives with some of the situations we face in life. In 1 Corinthians 10:1-11, Paul even said, "And these things happened to them [Israel] as an example, and they were written for our instruction." God's past dealing with people like Israel in that context are there for us to learn from.

There's something about studying individual people in the Bible that helps the truth stick. And the ever-relevant Bible has a way of bringing us to where we come to sympathize with these Bible personalities and relate with them in an intimate way even though they lived 2,000 or more years ago and on the other side of the world in a different culture. And by the end of this weekend, I want you to come away feeling as though you know Noah on a whole new level from studying his life and the events surrounding it. Through his life, I want you to come away strengthened and closer in your walk with the Lord. To peer into the life of Noah, we're going to spend the majority of the weekend in Genesis 6-9 and you know that when you study Noah and the flood, or whenever you study Genesis at all, **you're studying history.**

### **I. GENESIS IS HISTORY.**

It is the historical account of this world. The Bible is so accurate historically that it's a main source for archaeologists and geologists. **If you want to know the present, the key is found in the past, and only the Bible accurately tells us the past.** Genesis tells us our origins and why the world is the way it is. The Bible, particularly the first 11 chapters, wasn't debated or doubted to the extent it is today until about 200 years ago when a group of guys started the evolutionary lie that we evolved from monkeys and the earth is millions or billions of years old, et cetera. Other than the evolutionary view, which unfortunately is the conventional view now (also known as uniformitarianism), you have the Bible's view of a young earth (approx.. 6,000 years old) and it was shaped by catastrophic events, not long eons of time. Now with evolution in the picture, what you have today are **two competing historical accounts.**

**1. Uniformitarianism/Evolution** – everything present took millions or billions of years and slow changes.

**2. Catastrophism/Creation** – everything present is the result of catastrophic events that happened quickly and the earth is young (approx. 6,000 years based on the genealogy from Adam to Abraham to Christ).

The debate most of you are probably aware of is not a debate between religious people and scientists, though it is often portrayed that way. It's a debate between two competing views of history.

The Bible's young earth view has always stayed the same and is constantly being reaffirmed by archaeology and geology, while the other view is constantly changing and constantly adding more time (millions –and *now billions of years*) *because it lacks evidence*. And since there's so many people trying to discredit the flood, I find it necessary when talking about Noah to defend the flood and the Genesis account of history. We need to be ready to give an account (1 Pet. 3:15) why we believe the Bible is true. Before we even get into studying Noah's life, you need to know some things about that flood that are often used to discredit it and that's the main purpose of our first session.

When I was in high school, no one gave me any good reasons to continue believing the Bible so when I got to high school, where they taught evolution was a fact and that the idea of young earth with a global flood was nonsense, I fell for it. Who was I to argue with the teacher? I had no evidence for the flood and the ark story is pretty unusual, so I was a sitting duck for evolution and I don't want you guys to be sitting ducks. I want you to know **science is on creation's side**. When I was a really young kid, I believed God was big enough and powerful enough to create the world in six days and to create things completely functioning the way they were supposed too (they didn't have to *evolve!*). But then I got to middle school and high school and they started teaching me different things like evolution and millions of years and I really began to doubt who I was and what I was made for and made from! If you weren't created by a God who loves you and everything's just an accident, then life is basically just a big random joke without purpose and life has no value. You're a freak of nature! And a product of mere chance and circumstance. And that led to some horrible thinking and terrible choices and it wasn't until I read the Bible for myself and started to learn from Bible believing teachers that the scientific evidence actually points to a Creator God and a global flood, that things made sense again. Now I see evidence for the global flood all around me.

**If you want to understand this world, you must get a go to Genesis.** It's so good to know there's a God who created us, and loves us, even enough to take on flesh Himself and die for us. Tonight, all I basically want to do is to defend the flood of Noah's day a couple ways. When it comes to the flood, men often tend to shy away from the aspect of the supernatural totality (universality) of a worldwide flood or they ask in regards to God's character, "How can God be good if He judged the world so harshly?" They either doubt the message or accuse the God of the message.

## II. 1<sup>ST</sup> DEFENSE: THE MESSAGE OF THE FLOOD IS NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. (6:13; 7:17-24)

We're talking about some serious business here in the way God deals with sinful man and it's here for us to learn from. It's here to correct us and restore our relationship with God so that's one reason Satan doesn't want it taught.

### A. The flood was a global flood.

Read **6:5-13**. The people on the earth in Noah's day were exceedingly wicked. Every intention of the thoughts of their heart was evil continually. God only spared 8 people on the entire earth.

Now **7:17-24** emphasis the totality of it the best – note the words "all" and "every". "Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days, and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth. The water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that **all** the high mountains **everywhere** under the heavens were covered. The water prevailed fifteen cubits [20 ft] higher, and the mountains were covered. **All** flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and **every** swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and **all** mankind; of **all** that was on the dry land, **all** in whose nostrils was the breath of life of the spirit of life, died. Thus He blotted

out **every** living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and **only** Noah was left, together with those that were with him on the ark. The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.”

It’s one thing when God repeats something twice or three times but in this account of the flood, He repeats Himself way more than a few times. The Hebrew word ‘kol’ which is ‘all’ is used 35 times in these few chapters. God doesn’t want us to miss it and you have to be willfully ignorant, blind and bent on deception to argue otherwise. This was clearly NOT a local flood. God flooded the whole world. It was all underwater. All of mankind except Noah and his family perished, along with select animals. This is not something to take lightly.

Keith Brooks said that ‘*the basic message of the Genesis flood is that sinful men do not deserve to live on God’s earth.*’. And that’s the true. However, when men normally think of the story of Noah and the flood they usually don’t think that do they? Even as believers, the pictures we grow up are cute Sunday school pictures with **little, fuzzy, smiling animals** sticking their head out of the windows of a boat surrounded by sunshine and a rainbow. And those pictures are great for kid ministries, but if that’s all we think about when we think of the flood, it really dulls the severity of the judgment. It should be depicted more like **desperation** and **darkness**. For some reason, maybe to ease peoples’ consciences of the severity of it all, some have been tempted to rationalize or explain it into a local flood instead of a worldwide flood. Still others, clearly unaccepting of the testimony of the inspired Scriptures, laugh at and mock the idea altogether as if Noah never existed or the global flood never happened in the first place. But according to the God-given revelation and the testimony of Jesus, we can trust that Noah did exist and that the flood really did happen. It’s these miraculous accounts like the global flood or Jonah with the great fish that the Bible critics are the first to attack but it’s these same historical accounts that Jesus and the apostles reaffirm for us in the New Testament and even use to teach us about how to live and think about the future judgments.

Like I said, Genesis and the Bible wasn’t challenged like it is today until a couple hundred years ago – that’s just a couple generations. And there’s nothing wrong with challenging the Bible and testing it, but the people who came up with this evolutionary stuff weren’t really challenging the Bible and weren’t interested in the truth. They were simply trying to discredit it through something that known as Higher Criticism. And I won’t get into it much but basically they knew that if they could just discredit the first 11 chapters of the Bible, they could deceive a lot of people. They knew exactly what they were doing. And through bullying and lying and claiming “science” was on their side when they were just making things up, they stole the minds of a lot of people and now evolution has replaced creationism as the main historical view, though it’s full of errors and lacks evidence. One of the main areas it lacks evidence is in the fossil record. It doesn’t show all the missing links that should be there if gradual evolution were true.

#### **B. The fossil record is proof of the flood.**

Fossilization is rare today. In order for something to be fossilized it has to be buried quickly and that’s exactly what the flood did! **The flood explains why we even have a fossil record.** It explains why you would find ocean dwelling **Mosasaurus** fossils and other sea creature fossils in the middle the continents today. The flood explains why the earth and rocks and fossils are the way they are. It explains the ice age and the history of this earth.

Think about this: If this global flood really did happen like Genesis claims, and all of us came from just these 8 people on the ark, then you would suspect that the world would be filled with accounts of the flood right? You would suspect people to pass on an event that important to history right? Well that's exactly what happened. Many ancient cultures have some record of a worldwide flood.

**C. Global flood stories are found in cultures all around the world.**

There are around **500 great flood stories from cultures all over the world**, with more than **three hundred of them clearly referring to catastrophic, global floods**.<sup>i</sup> From South America to India to Australia to the world's earliest known civilizations,<sup>ii</sup> Hindus, Greeks, Indian tribes in Canada and the United States like the Ojibwe and Chippewa have theirs; the Maasai, a people in Kenya and Tanzania, Africa have theirs. The Aztecs, the Hawaiians. As the story got passed along and languages changed, so did some details – some detail were gained (some not good), some were lost – nevertheless, the worldwide flood stories are there. Even the name Noah and his wife's name were passed on. And these **flood accounts also prove another historical event: the Tower of Babel**. Shortly after the flood, God confused the languages and everyone spread out over the face of the earth from one area, taking their history with them. Two modern day missionaries who were the first to contact certain tribes in the Amazon, who had no contact with the outside world until recently, it was discovered they had flood stories. Not only that, they had historical legends telling about how languages split apart too!<sup>iii</sup>

The flood story can even be seen in **the Chinese alphabet**. As you know Chinese writing is pretty weird to us. It's like a bunch of little pictures or pictograms. Well, **the character for “ship” or “large boat”** is formed by combining the words for “boat”, “eight” and “person”.<sup>iv</sup>



**D. The surface of the earth was shaped by a catastrophe.**

Everywhere you look you see evidence for the flood. The surface of the earth looks like it's been washed by water and not just rain, but heavy amounts of **receding waters**. Water is powerful. We saw that this spring. Just look at what one little “bomb cyclone” storm caused. It wipes out roads. It wiped out farms. Farmers are losing farms over it. We just got our road rebuilt by our farm a few weeks ago. One little tiny storm shut down the whole state of Nebraska for a long time! Why do you put concrete or rocks under a water spicket? Because it washes away soil like it's nothing. Just imagine what would happen if it rained over the whole earth and God loosed the floodgates of the deep and volcanoes started going off! It would change the earth's surface dramatically. It would reshape mountains and create bluffs. It would form things like the **Grand Canyon** (which is likely the result of a large lake draining after the flood). When Mt. St. Helens blew up back in 1980 it changed the landscape around it and taught us a lot. The surface of the earth was shaped by catastrophe – a sudden, violent event known as the global flood. **You need to see the earth through a catastrophic lens if you're going to understand it.**

Psalm 104:6-9 says, “You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters were standing above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled, at the sounds of Your thunder they hurried away. The mountains rose; the valleys sank down to the place which You established for them. You set a boundary that they may not pass over, so that they will not return to cover the earth.” As a result of the flood, mountains got higher and valleys sank lower and God made new ocean boundaries.

The uniformitarian/evolutionary idea is something you guys need to be familiar with because that’s what the world is constantly trying to teach you. It teaches that the world is millions and billions of years old, rather than the biblical testimony that it’s closer to 6000 years old (according to the genealogies from Adam to Abraham to Christ to today) and **the flood occurred approximately 4500 years ago (Answers in Genesis says 2348 BC or 4,350 years ago from today)**. Uniformitarianism teaches the idea that all has just continued on since the beginning – nothing has ever changed – God has never acted in some big catastrophic way.... Well, that’s just not true. Science and archaeology and further discovery only confirm the Bible and many scientists today are turning their backs on evolution because it’s clear that this world **has seen** a catastrophic judgment delivered by the very hand of God Himself. And there’s more judgment coming, **not with water, but with fire** the Bible says. The Great Tribulation (the Day of the Lord) is going to be a fiery ordeal, and before God creates a New Heaven and New Earth, the Bible says this earth is going to be destroyed with fire, basically melted (the Day of God) and there’s a lake of fire waiting for those haven’t trusted the biblical testimony about Jesus Christ (the Great White Throne Judgment). And the only way to avoid judgments like those is to trust Jesus Christ. As believers who have trusted Christ, tomorrow we will learn more about how to live in light of a coming fiery judgment based on how Noah lived in light of coming flood judgment.

**E. If the flood was a local flood (only in Mesopotamia) then that would mean God is continually breaking His promise.**

That’s one more reason it is ludicrous to accept this flood as a local flood. If you believe it was a local flood, you have to deny the testimony concerning the covenant and rainbow. It makes God a liar and the rainbow meaningless. The rainbow is the sign God gave that He would never flood the earth again with a global flood, not a local flood. There are concentrated floods every year all over the world. But that doesn’t mean God has broken His promise because His promise was only about a global flood. And every time you see that rainbow you can remember God’s faithfulness.

To sum things up, the story of Noah and the flood from Genesis 6-9 is not a story full of smiles or laughter, and **it is not something that can be explained away because the world is filled with evidence from the flood**. It is a very serious time of God pouring out his holy wrath on this world. Psalm 29:10 says, “The Lord sat as King at the flood. Yes, the Lord sits as King forever.” It’s a kingly judgment so intense that God only spares 8 people on the face of the entire earth. Other than Noah and 7 members of his family, the rest of the people on earth literally drowned to death in a watery grave. It is not to be taken lightly. It illustrates **sin really does deserve death**.

Now that we’ve seen some good evidence for the flood, lets see what it says about character of God. Remember,

**III. 2<sup>ND</sup> DEFENSE: THE MESSAGE OF THE FLOOD IS ONE OF PRESERVING GRACE.**

**A. Grace seen in the flood.**

While it is a story of judgment, it is also a story that magnifies God’s grace. I believe that according to Genesis 6-9, one could say, for God so loved the world that He flooded it. You

say, how could a loving God flood the entire world, killing off everyone and everything? Because **when you have a correct view of God's character, you can see God's loving hand acting in holy preservation through the flood.** In order for God's creation to remain healthy and live in harmony, it must remain morally pure because He is morally perfect and everything's designed to operate according to His character. If it is holy, then it is healthy. If it is evil, then it is destructive and deadly. And the world in Noah's day was so wicked and so evil that God flooded it to preserve it. God loves us so much that He didn't let us destroy ourselves with sin that would have overtaken us. A.W. Tozer writes, *"When He arises to put down iniquity and save the world from irreparable moral collapse, He is said to be angry. Every wrathful judgment in the history of the world has been a holy act of preservation. The holiness of God, the wrath of God, and the health of His creation are inseparably united."* I really think it's safe to say that if God hadn't flooded the world we wouldn't be here today. Through the flood God prepared a new world to bless more people than the ancient antediluvian lawless world would ever do.

Every year in the spring there is a worldwide holiday called **Earth Day**, which is meant to remind us of our need to preserve and protect the environment. And while I don't know much about Earth Day and I don't believe I've ever celebrated Earth Day, I do know who is the real protector and preserver of the this earth and all it contains, and we see Him at work through the flood of holy preservation. The flood is God's Earth Day.

## **B. Grace before the flood. (6:5)**

Not only do you see grace in the flood, but **we see grace before the flood.** Look at 6:5. "The the Lord said, 'My Spirit will not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.'" Before the flood, God gave man countless opportunities to return to Him. God let them know, probably through Noah's preaching for 120 years that a flood was coming! God's Spirit was striving with man, convicting him of his sin and his need of righteousness and of judgment to come. When Adam and Eve sinned, they died spiritually, losing the indwelling Spirit of God, but that didn't mean God's Spirit couldn't work on them and convict them through His goodness and attributes seen creation and the conviction of conscience. Romans 1 says because of creation, men are without excuse. They know there's a God, but they reject Him.

### **1. The reason for the flood wasn't because God wanted it but because man refused to respond to His Spirit's promptings. (6:3)**

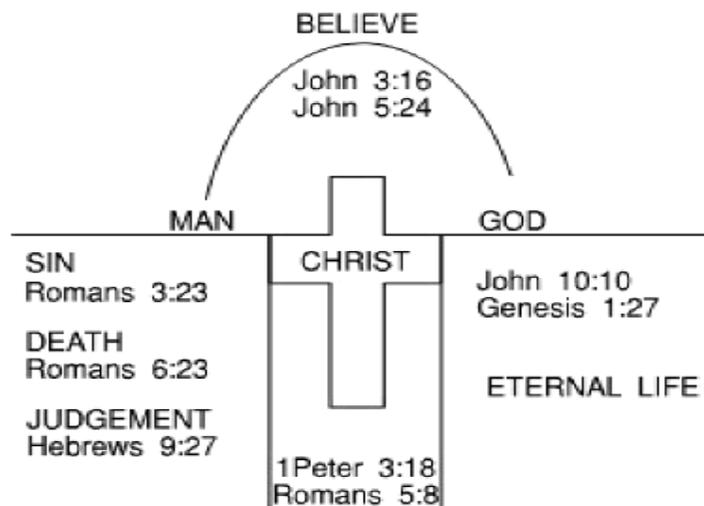
The Lord's Spirit was striving and contending with man before the flood and God gave man 120 years at least to know judgment was coming. We learn from the book of Jude that this sort of wickedness has been going on for a long time as well, for generations. The Lord was grieved over it and over man (6:6)! He takes zero pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek. 33:11). And He desires all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4-5; John 3:16). The Bible is clear on this, more than once, that when man continues to reject His promptings, exchanging God for other things, and suppress the truth to embrace lies, He delivers them over to some form of judgment like increased spiritual deadness, hardness of heart, abandonment to sin's consequences (Rom. 1; Rom. 9), and eventually future judgments like Sodom and Gomorrah experienced, the Great Tribulation, Great White Throne Judgment, and the Lake of Fire or eternal hell. Even today, God's Spirit is convicting the world of sin,

righteousness and judgment (John 16:8) and through the gospel letting them know **judgment is avoidable by trusting in Christ. Today God is calling all men, everywhere, to repent and trust in Jesus Christ** (Acts 17:30).

2. **The seriousness and the severity of God's wrath upon the entire world should increase our appreciation for God's grace that we've been shown in Christ.** None of us deserves any but judgment. Thank God He doesn't give us what we deserve but has provided a way out. The flood story should level our pride and rebellion and increase our praise for His mercy on us, causing us to worship our God with our very lives. That's what Noah did. When we think of Noah **we typically think of him as a man of God, but today I want you to think of him as a man of the flood.** Noah was the man of the flood. He lived in light of an impending judgment, a coming judgment. But you know what? So do we. You and I both know...
- ❖ There is a flood of judgment coming upon those who have not placed their faith in Christ.

And so Noah is going to be our example today as to how we should live in light of a coming judgment.

The only way for us to get to heaven and avoid the judgment is by trusting in Christ's sacrifice on the cross. He is God and God became a man to pay for man's sin in full. He took our sin so that whoever places their trust in Him will be given His perfect righteousness. He is our bridge to God. **We are saved by grace, through faith, in Christ.**



<sup>i</sup> Ken Ham, Bodie Hodge, *A Flood of Evidence: 40 Reasons Noah and the Ark Still Matter* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2016), 32.

<sup>ii</sup> Larry Stone, *Noah, the Real Story* (Nashville, TN: Kingsley Books, 2014), 24.

<sup>iii</sup> Ham, Hodge, 33.

<sup>iv</sup> Stone, 33.